

Watkins Patent Services*Patent Services, Mechanical, Electrical Design and Prototyping***Draft Amendments****April 7, 2008**

To: T. Noland
Art Unit 2856

From: Ken Watkins

Ref: 10/506,518
Draft 312 Amendment

1/2


Examiner Noland;

I am looking at a still better amendment of the terminology of claim 1. I have attached it for your consideration.

I believe this terminology is much better and retains all of the elements and limitations of the previous versions. I prefer this one, although if you have a problem with it, the previous one with your suggestion ("the same electrical property" on line 8)

I will enter the selected one of these amendments with payment of the issue fee. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Watkins
Reg. No 37466

Ph (706) 864-6304
Fax (706) 864-1056
Email: kwatkins@alltel.net

Application No. 10/506,518

2/2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

DRAFT**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of determining environmentally induced degradation of a polymer, the method comprising the steps of:
adding conductive particles to the polymer to form a conductive composite comprising a preselected weight percent of conductive particles;
- 5 making an electrical connection with the conductive composite and measuring an electrical property of the conductive composite; and
equating the measured a change in the electrical property of the conductive composite; ~~said measured electrical property consistent with a decrease in electrical resistivity;~~ with
an the electrical property of a previously degraded sample of the conductive composite to
- 10 determine the degradation of the polymer, the change in the electrical property consistent with a decrease in electrical resistivity.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured electrical property is electrical resistivity.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured electrical property is electrical conductivity.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradation of the polymer is mechanical degradation of the polymer.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the mechanical property comprises a durometer of the polymer.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the mechanical property comprises an elongation property of the polymer.